

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

-----020751Z 090577 /21

P R 020728Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1004

AMCONSUL MEDAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJ: ELECTION-DAY ATOMOSPHERICS - SURABAYA

1. CONSULATE OFFICERS ATTENDED OPENING CEREMONY AT POLLING SITE (TPS), OBSERVED VOTING AT THREE TPS'S AND COUNTING PROCEDURE AT ANOTHER. AT SECOND TPS, CONSULATE GROUP HAPPENED TO OVERLAP WITH GOVERNOR SOENANDAR, GENERAL WITARMIN (BRAWIJAYA DIVISION COMMANDER) AND SURABAYA'S MAYOR SUPARNO, ALL OF WHOM WERE IN JOVIAL SPIRITS. THE GOVERNOR WAS UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY TO OUR GROUP AND THE JOURNALISTS WHO WERE WITH HIM, OBSERVING AS HE POINTED TO THE VOTING AREA, "IT'S VERY SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?" DURING OUR DRIVE TO POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY'S THREE WARDS, WE OBSERVED SCORES OF OTHER TPSS. IN EVERY INSTANCE, THE YEAR-LONG PREPARATIONS FOR THIS DAY HAVE PAID OFF WITH GOOD ORGANIZATION, ORDER AND CALM DURING THE VOTING. A CONSULATE LOCAL EMPLOYEE REPORTS THAT THE POOREST, MOST MOSLEM AREAS ARE ALSO QUIET.

2. IN PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTION, SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. BRAWAJAYA AND MARINE CORPS TROOPS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY EVIDENT SINCE FRIDAY NIGHT. AROUND NOON ON SATURDAY, A CARAVAN OF TRUCKS CARRYING MARINE ARMED WITH RIFLES WAS SEEN LEAVING THE CITY TOWARD THE SOUTH. TODAY, FIVE-MAN POLICE SQUADS WERE

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PATROLLING THE MAIN STREETS OF SURABAYA DURING THE VOTING. TRAFFIC HAS BEEN VERY LIGHT.

3. AT ONE TPS, A SMALL CHILD, WATCHING THE PROCESSION OF PEOPLE ENTER THE SIMPLE VOTING BOOTHS, ASKED IN A LOUD VOICE, "WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE GOING TO THE BATHROOM (KAMAR KECIL)?"

BROWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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